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Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT The Problem of Hajj Amin, Grand Mufti.

EVALUATION **B-3.**

NUMBER OF PAGES 2.
ATTACHMENTS
THEATRE ESTO - Cairo.

DIR. CCS.	
DIR. CIR 10	✓
T. O.	
SECRET	
DIR. CI	✓
PWS	✓
PWR	✓
R & A	3
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PH	✓
SO	✓
LOO	✓
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1. A source with strong pro-Arab tendencies and with close contacts among well established Arab families states that Hajj Amin, Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, is still the idol of the Palestinian Arabs, Moslem and Christian alike.
2. On 1 June, at the tenth anniversary of the Palestine Arab Party, all speeches ended with mention of the Mufti. His name invariably brought loud applause. (This meeting is reported in Report G-7904 of 20 June 1945.) In Arab labor groups, the Mufti is likewise regarded as a hero.
3. Source has talked at length with Arabs, asking them how they reconcile his acceptance of Axis money and guidance, and also his ordering the death of many Arabs during the Revolution. The answer is always the same. I.e., Britain and the United States drove him and other Arabs to desperation through their pro-Zionist activities. It is denied that he ordered the death of any Arabs.
4. The British in Palestine have said as little as possible about the Mufti's capture. In fact, so little is known about his present whereabouts, that one speaker at the recent meeting of the Palestine Arab Party apparently took it upon himself to state that Hajj Amin was safe with the British, in good health, and honorably treated.
5. Source states that no doubt Zionists will call for the severe punishment of the Mufti, and that any leniency shown the Mufti will arouse serious opposition in Zionist circles.

CLASSIFICATION

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SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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6. Source states that at the present time British prestige is on the upswing in Palestine because of their handling of the Syrian crisis. If, however, the Mufti receives severe punishment, even though legal and warranted, Arab feeling toward Britain will undergo rapid deterioration and the wrath of the Arab world will be incurred.*

*(Washington Note: The Mufti's prestige outside Palestine dwindled markedly in the last two years of the European War. Since V-E Day, however, his reputation in the Levant States and Iraq has again been on the upswing, a trend which has not taken place in Transjordan, Egypt, the Arabian peninsula, or North Africa.)

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